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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a formatted computer readable source document having one or more pages, the source document having text comprising a plurality of words, each word comprising one or more characters, each character having a character appearance defined by one or more font properties and each word having a word appearance defined by the font properties of its characters and a position of the word on a page, the method comprising:

receiving a formatted document, the formatted document having formatted text comprising a plurality of words, each word comprising one or more characters, each character having a character appearance defined by one or more font properties and each word having a word appearance defined by the font properties of its characters, the formatted document being formatted on one or more pages, and each word having a fixed position on one of the one or more pages;

partitioning the formatted text into a plurality of groups of words based on the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages, the font properties of the words, or both, each group of words having a group appearance defined by one or more text properties;

assigning an element from a predefined set of markup language elements to each of two or more groups in the plurality of groups of words, the assigning being based on the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages, the font properties of the words, or both;

deriving an element style for the assigned element, the element style comprising a character style, a layout style or both, the character style being derived from the font properties of the characters of the words in the groups of words to which the element is assigned, and the layout style being derived from the text properties of the groups of words to which the element is

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assigned; and

creating an electronic document comprising a style sheet defining the element style.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the text is partitioned into groups of words according to the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages word positions and an the element is assigned to each group of words solely on the basis of the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages position of the group of words on the page.
 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the text is partitioned into groups of words according to the font properties of the words in the text and an the element is assigned to each group of words solely on the basis of the font properties of the words in the group two or more groups of words.
 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the text is partitioned into groups of words according to the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages word positions and the font properties of the words in the text and at least one the element is assigned to each group of words based on the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages position of the group of words on the page and the font properties of the words in the group two or more groups of words.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each group of words has a group appearance defined by one or more text properties, the method further comprising:

comparing the group appearances of all groups of words to which the assigned element is assigned, creating one or more alternate elements if the differences among the group appearances exceed a predefined threshold, and assigning each group of words to the original assigned element or an alternate element.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein a numeric value defining the predefined threshold is obtained from user input.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein a numeric value defining the predefined threshold is a preprogrammed numeric value.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined set of predefined elements is the set of HyperText Markup Language elements defined in HTML 4.0.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined set of predefined elements is the set of Extensible Markup Language elements defined in XML 1.0.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined set of elements comprises:
a header element and a paragraph element.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the predefined set of elements further comprises:

an address element, a blockquote element, a list element, a table element and a caption element.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the character style comprises at least one font property and an associated value.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the font property is selected from a predefined set of font properties comprising a font family, a font style, a font weight, a font variant and a font size.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the layout style comprises at least one text property and an associated value.

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15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the text property is selected from a predefined set of text properties comprising a text decoration, a text alignment, a text indentation and a text transformation as defined in CSS1.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting and setting page margins for pages of the document page.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the style sheet is an extensible Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) style sheet-(XSL).

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising creating an electronic document comprising a markup language version of the source formatted document.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, ~~for processing a formatted computer readable source document having one or more pages, the source document having text comprising a plurality of words, each word comprising one or more characters, each character having a character appearance defined by one or more font properties and each word having a word appearance defined by the font properties of its characters and a position of the word on a page,~~ the product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor system to:

receive a formatted document, the formatted document having formatted text comprising a plurality of words, each word comprising one or more characters, each character having a character appearance defined by one or more font properties and each word having a word

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appearance defined by the font properties of its characters, the formatted document being formatted on one or more pages, and each word having a fixed position on one of the one or more pages;

partition the formatted text into a plurality of groups of words based on the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages, the font properties of the words, or both, ~~each group of words having a group appearance defined by one or more text properties;~~

assign an element from a predefined set of markup language elements to each of two or more groups in the plurality of groups of words, the assigning being based on the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages, the font properties of the words, or both;

derive an element style for the assigned element, the element style comprising a character style, a layout style or both, the character style being derived from the font properties of the characters of the words in the groups of words to which the element is assigned, and the layout style being derived from the text properties of the groups of words to which the element is assigned; and

create an electronic document comprising a style sheet defining the element style.

22. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 21, wherein the text is partitioned into groups of words according to the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages ~~word positions~~ and ~~an~~ the element is assigned to ~~each group of words~~ solely on the basis of the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages ~~position of the group of words on the page~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 21, wherein the text is partitioned into groups of words according to the font properties of the words in the text and ~~an~~ the element is assigned to ~~each group of words~~ solely on the basis of the font properties of the words in the ~~group~~ two or more groups of words.

24. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 21, wherein the text is partitioned into groups of words according to the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages ~~word positions~~ and

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the font properties of the words in the text and at least one the element is assigned to each group of words based on the fixed positions of the words on their respective pages position of the group of words on the page and the font properties of the words in the group two or more groups of words.

25. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 21, wherein each group of words has a group appearance defined by one or more text properties, the product further comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor system to:

compare the group appearances of all groups of words to which the assigned element is assigned;

create one or more alternate elements if the differences among the group appearances exceed a predefined threshold; and

assign each group of words to the original assigned element or an alternate element.

26-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 21, wherein:

the predefined set of elements includes a header element and a paragraph element.

31. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 21, wherein:

the character style includes at least one font property and an associated value.

32. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 21, wherein:

the layout style includes at least one text property and an associated value.

33. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 21, further comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor system to:

detect and set page margins for pages of the document page.

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34. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 21, further comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor system to:

create an electronic document including a markup language version of the source document.